IN THE CLAIMS

1. **(currently amended)** An electronic transaction method using an electronic coupon in an electronic transaction system comprising an electronic shop server opening an electronic shop site on Internet to operate and manage said electronic shop site, a coupon issuance/management server, which has a transfer management memory, issuing and managing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information usable in a settlement of an electronic transaction for said electronic shop site, and a plurality of information terminals individually operable to access to said electronic shop and to access each other to carry out an electronic transaction, said electronic transaction method comprising:

requesting said coupon issuance/management server to issue said electronic coupon from one of said information terminals;

issuing, to said requesting information terminal having requested said electronic coupon by said coupon issuance/management server, said electronic coupon having said pecuniary value information and owner identification information related to said requesting information terminal;

recording and managing, by said coupon issuance/management server, said owner identification information of said electronic coupon as coupon management information in the transfer management memory; ~~and~~

at said requesting information terminal,

~~changing~~transferring, when said requesting information terminal transfers said electronic coupon to another information terminal, said electronic coupon to said another information terminal and transmitting a coupon number of said electronic coupon, identification information of said requesting information terminal, and

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identification information of said another information terminal to said coupon issuance/management server; and

at said coupon issuance/management server,

comparing said owner identification information, which is recorded in said transfer management memory ~~from~~ and which is associated with the coupon number with said identification information of said requesting information terminal, and if said identification information of said requesting information terminal matches the owner identification information, changing the owner identification information recorded in said transfer management memory from said identification information of said requesting information terminal to ~~owner~~ said identification information of said another information terminal ~~by said coupon issuance/management server~~.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1, wherein said information terminal transfers said electronic coupon to another information terminal being as said transferee apparatus and notifies said coupon issuance/management server of the transfer; and

in response to the notice, said coupon issuance/management server changes said owner identification information in said transfer management memory to information characteristic of said another information terminal.

4. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 3, wherein said another information terminal transfers said electronic coupon to said electronic shop server

being as said transferee apparatus due to an electronic transaction in said electronic shop site

and notifies said coupon issuance/management server of the transfer; and

in response to the notice, said coupon issuance/management server changes said

owner identification information in said transfer management memory to information

characteristic of said electronic shop server.

5. (previously presented) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1,

wherein said coupon issuance/management server attaches electronic signature data to said

pecuniary value information and said owner identification information of said electronic

coupon with different encryption keys.

6. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 5, wherein said

coupon issuance/management server affixes said electronic signatures on said pecuniary

value information and said owner identification information with a server private key

characteristic of said coupon issuance/management server and a user private key

characteristic of a user of said information terminal, respectively.

7. (previously presented) The electronic transaction method according to claim 5,

wherein said transferee apparatus transferred said electronic coupon sends said electronic

coupon to said coupon issuance/management server to request said coupon

issuance/management server to verify validity of said electronic coupon;

said coupon issuance/management server verifies the validity of said electronic

coupon on the basis of said electronic signatures affixed on said electronic coupon and

notifies said transferee apparatus of a result of the verification;

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when the validity of said electronic coupon is confirmed on the basis of a result of the verification, said transferee apparatus requests said coupon issuance/management server to change an owner of said electronic coupon; and

in response to the owner change request, said coupon issuance/management server confirms said information terminal, which is a transferor of said electronic coupon, that said information terminal has transferred said electronic coupon, and changes said owner identification information.

8. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1, wherein said coupon issuance/management server sets a term of validity to said electronic coupon, and records and manages information on said term of validity as a part of said coupon management information in said transfer management memory.

9. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1, wherein said coupon issuance/management server records and manages progress information on a status of progress of issuance and transfer of said electronic coupon as a part of said coupon management information in said transfer management memory, and carries out a process according to said progress information in said transfer management memory.

10. – 12. (canceled)

13. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1, wherein said information terminal holds said electronic coupon in a terminal-side memory, to which an

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access is inhibited or allowed by inputting password information, and inhibits an access to

said electronic coupon by inputting said password information.

14. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 13, wherein, when

transferring said electronic coupon to said transferee apparatus, the information terminal

allows an access to said terminal-side memory by inputting said password information, reads

said electronic coupon from said terminal-side memory, and sends said electronic coupon to

said transferee apparatus.

15. (previously presented) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1,

wherein said information terminal holds said electronic coupon in an IC card, an access to

said IC card being inhibited by inputting a personal identification number (PIN) as said

password information, and allowed by inputting a PIN block as said password information.

16. (original) The electronic transaction method according to claim 13, wherein said

information terminal has a displaying means, and records and manages information on a

status of progress of transfer of said electronic coupon in said terminal-side memory, and can

display said information on said displaying means.

17. (withdrawn) An electronic transaction system using an electronic coupon

comprising:

an electronic shop server opening an electronic shop site on Internet, and operating

and managing said electronic shop site;

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a coupon issuance/management server issuing and managing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information usable in a settlement of an electronic transaction for said electronic shop site;

an information terminal being able to access to said electronic shop to carry out an electronic transaction;

said information terminal comprising:

a coupon issuance requesting means requesting said coupon issuance/management server to issue said electronic coupon;

said coupon issuance/management server comprising:

a coupon issuing means issuing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information and owner identification information based on information characteristic of said information terminal to said information terminal in response to a request from said information terminal;

a transfer management memory recording pecuniary value information and owner identification information of said electronic coupon as coupon management information; and

a coupon owner changing means changing said owner identification information in said transfer management memory according to a transferee apparatus of said electronic coupon.

18. (withdrawn) A coupon issuance/management server for use in an electronic transaction system using an electronic coupon comprising an electronic shop server opening an electronic shop site on Internet, and operating and managing said electronic shop site, a coupon issuance/management server issuing and managing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information usable in a settlement of an electronic transaction for said

electronic shop site, and an information terminal being able to access to said electronic shop site to carry out an electronic transaction, said coupon issuance/management server comprising:

a coupon issuing means issuing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information and owner identification information on said information terminal to said information terminal in response to a request for issuance of said electronic coupon from said information terminal;

a transfer management memory recording said pecuniary value information and said owner identification information of said electronic coupon as coupon management information; and

a coupon owner changing means changing said owner identification information in said transfer management memory according to a transferee apparatus of said electronic coupon.

19. (withdrawn) The coupon issuance/management server according to claim 18, wherein said coupon owner changing means comprises a terminal-to-electronic shop owner changing means changing said owner identification information in said transfer management memory to information characteristic of said electronic shop server when receiving a notice from said information terminal or another information terminal that said electronic coupon has been transferred to said electronic shop server due to an electronic transaction in said electronic shop site.

20. (withdrawn) The coupon issuance/management server according to claim 18, wherein said coupon owner changing means comprises a terminal-to-terminal owner

changing means changing said owner identification information in said transfer management

memory to information characteristic of said another information terminal when receiving a

notice from said information terminal that said electronic coupon has been transferred to said

another information terminal.

21. (withdrawn) The coupon issuance/management server according to claim 18,

wherein said coupon issuing means comprises an electronic signature means affixing

electronic signatures on said pecuniary value information and said owner identification

information of said electronic coupon with different encryption keys.

22. (withdrawn) The coupon issuance/management server according to claim 21,

wherein said electronic signature means comprises:

a server private key signature means affixing said electronic signature on said

pecuniary value information of said electronic coupon with a server private key characteristic

of said coupon issuance/management server; and

a user private key signature means affixing said electronic signature on said owner

identification information of said electronic coupon with a user private key characteristic of a

user of said information terminal.

23. (withdrawn) An information terminal for use in an electronic transaction system

using an electronic coupon comprising an electronic shop server opening an electronic shop

site on Internet, and operating and managing said electronic shop site, a coupon

issuance/management server issuing and managing an electronic coupon having pecuniary

value information usable in a settlement of an electronic transaction for said electronic shop

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site, and an information terminal being able to access to said electronic shop site to carry out

an electronic transaction, said information terminal comprising:

a coupon issuance requesting means requesting said coupon issuance/management

server to issue said electronic coupon;

an electronic coupon receiving means receiving an electronic coupon issued from said

coupon issuance/management server in response to the request, said electronic coupon having

said pecuniary value information and owner identification information based on information

characteristic of said information terminal;

a terminal-side memory holding said electronic coupon received by said electronic

coupon receiving means;

a displaying means; and

a record/display controlling means recording information on a status of progress of

transfer of said electronic coupon in said terminal-side memory and managing said

information therein, and being able to read out contents of record in said terminal-side

memory to display said contents on said displaying means.

24. (withdrawn) The information terminal according to claim 23, wherein an access to

said terminal-side memory is inhibited or allowed by inputting password information.

25. (withdrawn) A managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving means receiving, via a mobile exchange, an issue request including first

information for identifying a portable terminal which can access to a mobile communication

network from said portable terminal;

a transmitting means transmitting fourth information having second information representing a value and third information for identifying information representing said value to said portable terminal, provided that said portable terminal is charged;

a storing means relating said first information with said third information and storing said first information and said third information therein, when receiving a notice including said first information, said third information and fifth information for identifying a terminal of a transferee from said portable terminal, relating said fifth information with said third information and storing said fifth information therein; and

a determining means, when receiving said third information and sixth information for identifying another terminal which differs from said portable terminal from said another terminal, determining whether or not said sixth information coincides with said fifth information related with said third information and stored in said storing means, determining that said another terminal is valid as an owner of said fourth information when said sixth information coincides with said fifth information, and determining that said another terminal is not valid as an owner of said fourth information when said sixth information does not coincides with said fifth information.

26. (withdrawn) The managing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said managing apparatus is connected to Internet via a gateway apparatus, and said terminal of a transferee is another server connected to said Internet.

27. (withdrawn) A portable terminal comprising:

a transmitting means transmitting an issue request including first information for identifying said portable terminal to an issuing/managing apparatus via a mobile exchange;

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a receiving means receiving fourth information having second information representing a value and third information for identifying information representing said value, provided that said portable terminal is charged; and

a transmitting means transmitting said fourth information to another terminal, and transmitting said first information, said third information and sixth information for identifying said another terminal to said issuing/managing apparatus via said mobile exchange.

28. (previously presented) The electronic transaction method according to claim 1, wherein said electronic coupon is electronic money.